



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

April 2004

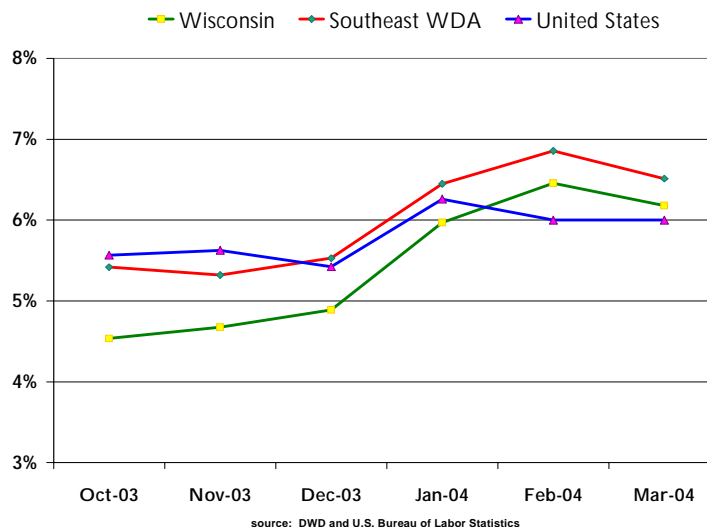
Unemployment Rates Down Over the Month and Year in March

Walworth County's unemployment rate dipped three-tenths of a percentage point to 4.9 percent in March. And like the other two southeast region counties, it showed a lower unemployment rate compared to March 2003. Walworth's rate is eight-tenths of a point lower than last March's figure. The monthly dip in the rate was an-

chored by an overall contraction of the labor force, which is not unusual for this county in March to reach its slowest time of the year via labor force. April will most assuredly bring about dramatic hiring numbers as it will mark a benchmark hiring month for summer-season workers across many industries.

Walworth's industry employment level is at the 41,100-jobs mark. This is contrasted to the 53,000 Walworth residents whom are employed indicating that a good number of Walworth residents commute to other counties for work. The Walworth industry employment tally is flat over the month and year showing no overall change, plus or minus. Manufacturing shows an annual loss of 200 jobs, which was offset by 100-jobs gains in both financial activities and education and health services. Again, April figures will likely show robust hiring particularly in the services-providing industries.

Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



Kenosha County's unemployment rate in March was 5.9 percent. This is a monthly and yearly decrease of four-tenths and eight-tenths of a percentage point, respectively. Labor force figures over the month and year show an increase in the number of employed residents and a corresponding decrease in the number of unemployed.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin counties: February 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County		
	Mar-04	Feb-04	Mar-03	Mar-04	Feb-04	Mar-03	Mar-04	Feb-04	Mar-03
Labor force	3,092,847	3,099,664	3,046,810	85,258	85,034	84,693	93,976	94,251	93,819
Employed	2,901,690	2,899,533	2,837,015	80,187	79,656	78,984	86,462	86,400	85,051
Unemployed	191,157	200,131	209,795	5,071	5,378	5,709	7,514	7,851	8,768
% Unemployed	6.2%	6.5%	6.9%	5.9%	6.3%	6.7%	8.0%	8.3%	9.3%
	Walworth County			Southeast WDA			United States		
	Mar-04	Feb-04	Mar-03	Mar-04	Feb-04	Mar-03	Mar-04	Feb-04	Mar-03
Labor force	55,909	56,189	55,465	235,143	235,474	233,977	146,525,000	146,154,000	145,801,000
Employed	53,178	53,272	52,277	219,827	219,328	216,312	137,691,000	137,384,000	136,783,000
Unemployed	2,731	2,917	3,188	15,316	16,146	17,665	8,834,000	8,770,000	9,018,000
% Unemployed	4.9%	5.2%	5.7%	6.5%	6.9%	7.5%	6.0%	6.0%	6.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - March 2004

	Wisconsin			Kenosha County			Racine County			Walworth County			Southeast WDA		
	Diff.	Diff.		Diff.	Diff.		Diff.	Diff.		Diff.	Diff.		Diff.	Diff.	
<u>Employment in 1,000's</u>	since	since		since	since		since	since		since	since		since	since	
	March	Feb-	Mar-	March	Feb-	Mar-	March	Feb-	Mar-	March	Feb-	Mar-	March	Feb-	Mar-
	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003	2004	2004	2003
All Industries	2,761.4	13.4	34.8	53.9	0.5	-0.2	77.6	0.2	-0.1	41.1	0.0	0.0	172.6	0.7	-0.3
Construction/Natural Resources	3,192.8	4.8	7.8	2.1	0.1	0.0	3.3	0.1	0.1	1.5	0.1	0.0	6.9	0.3	0.1
Manufacturing	617.1	-1.6	-4.7	9.7	-0.1	-0.9	19.2	0.1	-0.7	8.8	-0.2	-0.2	37.7	-0.2	-1.8
Total Trade	2,144.3	3.1	11.5	8.7	0.0	0.3	12.2	0.2	-0.1	5.7	0.0	0.2	26.6	0.2	0.4
Retail Trade	117.6	7.1	7.9	6.7	0.0	0.2	9.2	0.2	-0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Wholesale Trade	499.5	1.6	3.6	2.0	0.0	0.1	3.0	0.0	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Transport/Warehouse/Utilities	430.0	0.1	1.4	1.5	0.0	-0.2	1.9	0.0	-0.1	1.1	0.0	-0.1	4.5	0.0	-0.4
Financial Activities	114.9	-0.7	3.8	1.8	0.0	0.1	2.8	-0.1	0.2	1.2	0.0	0.1	5.8	-0.1	0.4
Education and Health Services	315.1	0.7	13.6	8.5	0.2	0.5	10.5	0.0	0.4	3.7	0.0	0.1	22.7	0.2	1.0
Leisure and Hospitality	104.7	2.4	8.5	5.7	0.0	-0.2	6.1	0.0	-0.1	6.6	0.0	0.0	18.4	0.0	-0.3
Info./Prof./Bus.and Other Services	420.8	2.2	-0.3	6.3	0.0	0.2	11.3	0.1	0.1	4.8	0.1	0.0	22.4	0.2	0.3
Information	48.9	-0.3	-1.2	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	-0.1	-0.1	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Professional and Business Services	158.8	0.8	4.5	3.1	0.0	0.1	6.0	0.1	0.2	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Other Services	242.8	1.7	-3.6	2.7	0.0	0.0	4.7	0.1	0.0	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx
Fed/State/Local Government	375.5	2.4	-6.8	9.6	0.3	0.0	10.3	-0.2	0.1	7.7	0.1	0.0	27.6	0.2	0.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

Kenosha's industry employment figures show a total of 53,900 jobs in March, which is a 500-job overall increase compared to February and was the largest monthly increase since April 2003. This increase was centered in both education and health services and local government employment. Manufacturing employment declined by 100 jobs. The remaining sectors in Kenosha County were basically flat in hiring in March. Annually, Kenosha has continued an annual industry employment decline that goes back to October 2003. March's annual loss stood at -200 jobs overall. Manufacturing (-900 jobs) shows the largest annual decline by an industry sector. Education and health services (+500 jobs) showed the largest annual increase in employment. The remaining sectors such as wholesale and retail trade, financial activities and business services showed modest growth to offset the large decline in manufacturing employment.

The unemployment rate of **Racine County** dropped three tenths of a percentage point in March to a rate of 8.0 percent. The annual comparison is striking

as the unemployment rate is 1.3 percent points lower than in March 2003. This large annual decrease in the unemployment rate represents over 1,400 more residents reporting being employed and over 1,250 fewer residents declaring themselves as unemployed compared to last March.

Racine's industry employment total shows a slight overall increase of 200 jobs since February to a total number of 77,600 jobs. The monthly employment gains were spread over a host of industries such as manufacturing (+100 jobs), retail trade (+200 jobs), and business services (+100 jobs).

The annual industry tally shows a slight loss of 100 jobs overall in the county. The 700-job decline in manufacturing employment, the largest sector loss of the year, has been offset by small gains in various other sectors such as education and health services (+400 jobs), financial activities (+200 jobs), and professional and business services (+200 jobs). Small annual employment losses were counted in retail trade employment, leisure and hos-

pitality, and information employment. Employment gains will likely be realized throughout the warmer months of 2004. These will likely be seen in services providing industries. Construction employment may show goods-producing growth.

The 11th annual Governor's Workforce Development Conference is scheduled for May 19-21, 2004 in Milwaukee. The theme, Grow Wisconsin: An Economic Imperative centers on Governor Doyle's "Grow Wisconsin" plan. The information, resources and strategies developed through networking and problem-solving during the conference will equip state staff and business leaders with ideas on how to promote and develop Wisconsin's workforce. For more information and to register on-line go to www.gwdc.net.

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